



# NEWS RELEASE

OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY  
WESTERN DISTRICT OF MISSOURI

**TODD P. GRAVES**

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **KC MAN SENTENCED FOR METH CONSPIRACY, ILLEGAL FIREARM**

**KANSAS CITY, Mo.** – Todd P. Graves, United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, announced that a Kansas City, Mo., man was sentenced in federal court today for his role in a conspiracy to distribute methamphetamine.

**Mark W. Caldarello**, 53, of Kansas City, was sentenced by U.S. District Judge Howard F. Sachs this afternoon to 11 years in federal prison without parole.

On Dec. 14, 2004, **Caldarello** pleaded guilty to participating in a conspiracy to distribute methamphetamine from Aug. 6 to 25, 2003. On several occasions, Graves said, **Caldarello** sold methamphetamine to an undercover police officer.

**Caldarello** also pleaded guilty to being a felon in possession of a firearm on Aug. 14, 2003. By pleading guilty, **Caldarello** admitted that he was in possession of a Sig Sauer 9 mm pistol, which he sold to the undercover officer. Under federal statutes, Graves explained, it is illegal for any felon to be in possession of any firearm or ammunition. **Caldarello** has a 1975 criminal felony conviction for robbery, two 1996 criminal felony convictions for stealing, and a 2003 criminal felony conviction for forgery.

**Caldarello** is the second defendant to be sentenced in this case.

On Feb. 7, 2005, **Brent L. Francis**, 27, of Gladstone, was sentenced to 10 years in federal prison without parole.

On Oct. 19, 2004, **Francis** pleaded guilty to conspiracy to distribute methamphetamine. By pleading guilty, **Francis** admitted that he conspired to distribute methamphetamine from Aug. 6 to 25, 2003. Specifically, **Francis** admitted that he distributed a total of 27.73 grams of pure methamphetamine.

**Francis** and **Caldarello** were originally charged in an indictment returned by a federal grand jury on June 29, 2004, in Kansas City.

This case was prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney David DeTar Newbert. It was investigated by the Kansas City, Mo., Police Department, the Metro Meth Task Force and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives.

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This news release, as well as additional information about the office of the United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, is available on-line at

[www.usdoj.gov/usao/mow](http://www.usdoj.gov/usao/mow)